

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 73

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the citizens of Henderson County upon the celebration of the county's 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should join with the counties that comprise this great State in celebrating joyous and historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Henderson County are most assuredly deserving of special recognition, as they celebrate this year the 200th anniversary of the county's formation; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County was established by the General Assembly on November 7, 1821, and named in honor of Colonel James Henderson, who served under Andrew Jackson and commanded Tennessee troops at the Battle of New Orleans, and

WHEREAS, several of the county's early settlers served under Colonel Henderson's command during the War of 1812 and during the Natchez and Creek Indian campaigns; the original area contained, in addition to the current bounds of the county, a large part of Chester County and smaller portions of both Decatur and Madison counties; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Highland Ridge, also known locally and historically as Feather Ridge and Purdy Range, divided the county into two distinct cultural and geographical sections; all water falling east of the ridge flows to the Tennessee River, while water west of the ridge flows to the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, three rivers, the Beech, the White Oak, and the Forked Deer, drain Henderson County, and nine recreational lakes dot its landscape, including two within Natchez Trace State Park, through which runs its namesake, the Natchez Trace, a trail that was key to the area's early settlement and economic development; and

WHEREAS, Natchez Trace State Park contains forty-eight thousand acres, making it one of the largest members of the state park system; the park is also the proud home of one of the largest pecan trees in North America; and

WHEREAS, Henderson County's first organized congregation, Middle Fork Primitive Baptist Church, began in 1823; it was followed by Mt. Gilead Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1826), Jacks Creek Baptist Church (1828), Mud Creek Primitive Baptist Church (1830), and a Methodist church near Olive Branch (1832); and

WHEREAS, the town of Mifflin, since annexed as part of Chester County, was the earliest and largest of the settlements in Henderson County and the site of the first county commission meetings until the surveying of Lexington; and

WHEREAS, Major John Troxell Harmon, who was also Henderson County's first sheriff, surveyed the county seat of Lexington in 1822; at 720 feet, the city is the highest in elevation of all the county seats in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Lexington has been the home of four courthouses, including one that burned during the Civil War and another that was destroyed by fire during the 1890s, leaving the county with few early records; and

WHEREAS, the county supplied regiments for both sides during the Civil War; both Lexington and Parkers Crossroads were battle sites during General Nathan Bedford Forrest's West Tennessee campaign of 1862; the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Henderson County was home to 25,552 individuals; with easy access to Interstate 40, the county has turned from agriculture to industrial development; the largest employers in the county, Johnson Controls and Leroy-Somer in Lexington, have a combined employment of more than 1,800; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Henderson County have added and continue to add immeasurably to the strength and character of Tennessee; their history and accomplishments have helped to build the cultural richness for which this State is known; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate the citizens of Henderson County upon the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the county's founding and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.